

Potomac Journal.

W. H. BRADSHAW, Publisher.

POTOMAC : : : MISSOURI

The gold in the United States treasury, on the 26th, amounted to \$451,477,404, the highest point ever reached since the foundation of the government. This is said to be the largest sum in the world.

Charles L. Alvord, note teller of the First National bank of New York, is a fugitive and defaulter to the extent of \$700,000. His pecuniary extended over many years, during which time he was a trusted employee of the bank.

The Paris LeCourrier du Soir says it understands that the prince and princess of Wales visited the Paris exposition last June, but that, in consequence of the expressed desire of the prince, their stay was kept an absolute secret.

The Scotch steel makers, owing to the importation of American steel plates, have reduced their prices five shillings, making 15 shillings reduction in a fortnight. These reductions, it is thought, will fully meet the American competition.

President Mitchell, in an interview, on the 22d, practically admitted that the anthracite coal miners' strike would end as soon as all the operators posted notices guaranteeing the payment of a ten per cent. advance in wages until April 1.

A high official of the German foreign office asserted, on the 23d, that Austria-Hungary and Italy had expressed their formal adherence to the Anglo-German agreement, but that France, Russia and the United States had not defined their positions.

Mayor Rodriguez of Havana has issued an order to the police directing them to take into custody children under 12 years of age found in the streets, unaccompanied, during school hours. It is the intention of the authorities there to enforce the school law strictly.

Intense adverse feeling has been excited at St. Thomas, D. W. L., by the renewal of the report that Denmark intends to sell the Danish West Indies to the United States. A meeting of the colonial council was convoked at St. Croix, on the 24th, for the purpose of making formal protest.

The mine workers' strike in the anthracite region of Pennsylvania, was, on the 25th, declared off as against all companies which had complied with the strikers' demands, and the strike was continued against those companies which had not granted the Scranton convention's demands.

At Pretoria, on the 26th, the Transvaal was proclaimed part of the British empire, the proclamation being attended with impressive ceremonies. The royal standard was hoisted in the main square of the city, the grenadiers presented arms and massed bands played the national anthem.

Up to September 21st, the Nome post office had sold \$500,000 money orders. The money order service had been in operation then about three months, and officials there estimate that the sales of money orders for the quarter amounted to \$400,000.

A dispatch to the London Daily Mail from Lorenzo Marquez, on the 25th, announced the sailing from that port of the American bark Fred P. Litchfield, which, it is believed at Lorenzo Marquez, carries a large quantity of Transvaal gold hidden under her ballast.

Reliable advices from Copenhagen, on the 22d, asserted that the sale of the Danish Antilles to the United States will soon be effected. The Danish minister to the United States, Dr. Constantine Bruin, will start for Washington, after completing his home conge, bearing the formal terms of sale.

Clare Barton is dangerously ill at her apartments at the Tremont hotel, in Galveston, Tex. Ever since her arrival in that city, about six weeks ago, she has been in ill health, and at intervals, upon the advice of her physician, was compelled to remain in doors. Of late her illness has assumed a serious phase.

M. Flaisieres, mayor of Marseilles, France, on being invited to participate in the manifestations on the arrival there of Mr. Kruger, asked for time to reflect, explaining that he desired to know the exact nature of the demonstration, and declaring that he did not intend to take any action likely to create diplomatic difficulties.

The officials of the British foreign office say the Anglo-German agreement will not affect Russia's railroad concessions in Manchuria. They point out that the object of the agreement is the upholding of the integrity of China without reference to arrangements of the powers regarding the constructing of railroads in China.

The French government has decided to prolong the Paris exposition for an additional week. It will close Sunday, November 11. One day will be devoted to the poor, with free admission. That night the exposition will be illuminated as on special nights. It is expected that a million visitors will be present on that day.

The report of the treasurer of the Union Printers' Home at Indianapolis, Ind., for the six months ending August 31, shows a balance in the treasury of \$10,000. Of this sum \$2,440.75 is deposited in the Federal National bank at Indianapolis. Drexel & Co. of New York, have \$13,324.40 of the funds. The expenditures for the six months were \$22,154.

Celebrations in honor of the centenary of the birth of Field Marshal Von Moltke began in Berlin on the 25th. The general staff, whose chief he was for many years, gave a banquet at the Kaiserhof, Count von Schlieffen, chief of the general staff, presiding. On the 26th Emperor William gave a large banquet at the castle in Berlin, and many other festivities marked the event.

AN AWFUL CATASTROPHE.

Another Horror Added to the Long List that Have Startled New York City.

SUCCESSION OF TERRIFIC EXPLOSIONS.

Over Ninety Persons Known to Have Been Injured—Number of Dead Unknown—Great Buildings Demolished and Streets Strava With Debris—Money Scattered Like Seeds on the Sahara.

New York, Oct. 30.—The long list of fire horrors that have occurred in and around New York, a list that includes the Royal hotel fire, the Park place disaster, and the Windsor and Hoboken fire, was added to yesterday by a fire and explosion that shook the lower end of Manhattan like an earthquake, hurled a seven-story building into the air, and set fire to two blocks of buildings, with a loss of life that only the efforts of hundreds of men who were rushing to the work of digging away the ruins as soon as the fire was extinguished, will reveal.

Where the Fire Originated.

The big building of Tarrant & Co., makers of medicinal specialties, standing at the northwest corner of Greenwich and Warren street, and filled with chemicals, took fire in some way that may never be known at about a quarter after twelve yesterday afternoon. It was sixteen minutes after noon that a citizen rushed into the house of fire engine 29, on Chambers street, near Greenwich, and shouted that Tarrant's drug store was on fire. He had seen a volume of black smoke coming from the third-story window.

A terrific explosion occurred. One fire company had just arrived when a terrific explosion occurred, and threw the entire engine's crew down the stairway. The firemen, realizing the danger of their position, rushed out of the building to take street.

The explosion had filled the street in front with a shower of falling glass and small debris, which sent the crowd, which had already gathered on the opposite sidewalk, fleeing for safety, and caused the horses hitched to the engines to rear and try to get away.

More Awful than the First.

Capt. Devaney, of the company, ordered his crew back into the building again. They were dragging the line to the doorway for the second time when came another explosion, more terrific than the first, and the whole crew was hurled across Greenwich street, Devaney being so badly injured that he was sent to a hospital.

In the meantime the other engines that had responded to the alarm had collected, and the firemen were busy rescuing people from surrounding buildings. Firemen had already taken many girls down the only fire escape upon the building, and more persons had been carried down the 'scapes of the Home-made restaurant next door and the buildings adjoining on Warren street.

Building Leaped into the Air.

The second explosion occurred about five minutes after the first. From the accounts of witnesses, the building seemed to leap into the air, and in a moment masses of brick wall, timbers and stone were falling into the street. The force of the explosion tore away the walls of the big commission storehouses fronting on Washington street, and caused them to collapse, falling all at once in a mass of timbers, boxes and barrels, of which the flames which were extending from the Tarrant building like the belching of a cannon, at once took hold.

Leaped Across the Street.

Across Warren street to the opposite buildings the flames leaped, setting them all afire at once, the force of the explosion demolishing windows and all wooden structures about the houses. In a moment Warren street was choked with a mass of debris, and the whole place was a scene of confusion. The great explosion was followed by a dozen more scarcely less intense, and by a countless number of smaller ones.

A Great Catastrophe.

The explosion and fire together had now assumed the proportions of a great catastrophe, and it was thought hundreds of lives had been lost. Through the smoke and confusion in the nearby streets, many of them panic-stricken, fleeing from the fire. They mingled in the crowd that was rushing down from Broadway to see what had happened.

The Scene in the Streets.

Half an hour after the explosion the streets for blocks around the fire were crowded with fire apparatus, with a score of ambulances, while great crowds of people were being rushed from all the lower precincts of the city to form lines, and many priests from nearby parishes were going here and there in the smoke-obscured thoroughfares, seeking for injured who might need their aid. From the burning districts a column of smoke was rising high in the air, mingled with flames that could not be controlled by hundreds of streams thrown upon them.

Destruction in Every Direction.

The second explosion carried destruction in every direction. That it did not cause a wholesale loss of life was due to the fact that almost ten minutes' warning came after the first cry of fire—a cry that was real warning to people who knew the character of the chemicals in the burning building—and fully five minutes occurred between the first and minor explosion, which warned every one within hearing, and the second one.

Carried Away as a Load Station.

The big explosion completely carried away the station of the Ninth Avenue Elevated road, and the mass of masonry that fell with it broke through the flooring and almost demolished the structure just below the building. Immense masses of masonry, pieces of cornice, great beams, window casings and an indescribable mass of wreckage of every description tumbled suddenly into the street

MISSOURI ITEMS CONDENSED.

A move is on foot to build an electric railway from St. Joseph to Leavenworth, Kan.

Senator Vest has put a quietus to the report that he would again seek re-election as United States senator from Missouri.

The large dry goods and clothing store of J. C. Smith & Son at Adrain was robbed of 28 suits of fine clothing and numerous other articles.

Miss Lizzie Murray fainted on the track in front of a St. Louis, Kansas City & Colorado train at Clayton. She was carried to a place of safety by Sheriff Kerth barely in time to save her life.

Because he couldn't find the wash basin John Johnson, who lives at 1309 McGee street, Kansas City, slapped his wife. She complained to the police and Judge Aubrey assessed a fine of \$25 in police court.

Harry Noerper, aged 16, of Luxembourg, St. Louis county, accidentally swallowed a six-penny nail, which lodged in the esophagus. He was too badly frightened to tell what happened for several hours and before medical aid arrived the boy was dead.

Columbia must be credited with having responded most liberally, for a town of its size, to Galveston's call for help. The contribution forwarded by the big-hearted citizens of Missouri's Athens amounted to a plump \$1,000. While the two young children of Michael Levett, of 1108 North Eighth street, St. Louis, were "playing tag" at their home, the five-year-old sister pushed her three-year-old brother into a pan of boiling water and before he was rescued the boy was fatally burned.

The northbound "cannon ball" on the Memphis railroad dashed into the chaircar and sleeper of a southbound accommodation which had failed to clear a switch at Bois d'Arc, Greene county. The Pullman was split in two and completely wrecked. Seven passengers escaped miraculously.

Abraham Davis, a St. Louis junk dealer, charged with receiving stolen goods, resisted arrest and held his six-week-old babe as a shield between himself and the officers. His family and other relatives joined in the fray, and it was only after Officer Sullivan had succeeded in tearing the child from the man's arms that he was able to effect the capture.

The attempt of the Retail Grocers' association of Missouri to force all dealers to charge a uniform price for flour and to exact a profit of at least 40 cents a barrel has been effectually nipped in the bud. Millers throughout the state have been warned by Secretary Lescure that any one who signs the proposed agreement will be guilty of violating the anti-trust laws of Missouri.

Thomas Ross, a wealthy widower of Decatur, Ill., went to St. Joseph, Mo., recently to marry Mrs. Alice Johnson, a widow, with whom he became engaged through a matrimonial paper. Ross had \$500 in cash with him as soon as he saw the bride-to-be he was so delighted that he invited several young men to join him at a saloon. As a result of his indulgence he lost his money and the widow and was a prisoner for a few hours at the police station.

The Missouri grand chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, in annual session at St. Louis last week, elected the following officers: Grand matron, Mrs. Ella Flanders, Cameron; patron, Dr. W. F. Kuhn, Kansas City; associate matron, Mrs. Mamie Fletcher, Joplin; associate patron, C. A. Dunn, Bethany; conductor, Mrs. Marie Ambrose, St. Louis; secretary, Mrs. Sallie E. Dillon, St. Louis; marshal, Mrs. Ella Deiss, Kansas City; chaplain, Mrs. Ella Rheinhardt, St. Louis.

In an address to the Baptist State association at Columbia last week Rev. Dr. Boyd, of Louisville, delivered an address which took the students of the state university by storm. He had heard the university football team was weaker than last year. If so, this showed a regrettable decline in the university. The basis of power is largely physical," he said. "I have two boys trying to break their necks playing football. I would rather they would break their necks playing football than to enter upon life despicable, unmanly and unattractive. He urged with emphasis the playing of football.

At the recent session of the Missouri grand chapter, order of the Eastern Star, a resolution was adopted of two ladies on the board, to allow the Eastern Star a representation of two ladies on the board the organization pledging itself, if this should be done, to raise \$3,000 for the building fund of the Missouri home. On the contrary this recognition should not be given, the convention expressed itself as ready to build an independent Eastern Star home. The sum of \$1,500 to be applied to one or the other of these purposes was raised in less than half an hour. A committee was appointed to secure Christmas presents for the old people of the home, and \$75 was donated for this fund.

The Missouri Baptist association, at its recent session in Columbia, passed a debt of \$3,500 that had been hanging over Stephens' female college at Columbia for several years.

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It is rumored in railroad circles that the Kansas City, Fort Scott & Memphis railroad will consolidate its shops at Kansas City with the plant at Springfield, provided Springfield will raise a bonus of \$25,000.

After wandering in exile for seven years Dolphus Franklin Mahaney, charged with murder, has been captured by the iron hand of the law. Mahaney shot and killed James Cress in a fight at a country dance near Linden, Maries county, on the night of November 23, 1893. He fled from the scene of the shooting, eluding the officers until he was finally entangled in the meshes through the efforts of a business rival in Oklahoma. Mahaney and Cress were rivals for the hand of Miss Sarah Reed and that probably influenced the men in the quarrel.

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A DAY OF THANKSGIVING.

The President Issues His Annual Proclamation Designating a Day of Thanksgiving.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER TWENTY-NINTH.

Recommend That All American Citizens, at Home and Abroad, Render Thanks to the Almighty, for Bringing the Nation in Safety and Honor Through Another Year.

Washington, Oct. 30.—The state department yesterday issued the following: By the president of the United States of America.

A PROCLAMATION.

It has pleased Almighty God to bring our nation in safety and honor through another year. The works of religion and charity have everywhere been manifest. Our country, through all its extent, and the great industries of the people have prospered beyond all precedent. Our power and influence in the cause of freedom and civilization have been maintained. We have been generally exempt from pestilence and other great calamities, and even the tragic visitation which overwhelmed the city of Galveston has been evidence of the sympathy and Christian charity by virtue of which we are one united people.

Now, therefore, I, William McKinley, president of the United States, do hereby appoint and set apart Thursday, the 29th day of November next, to be observed by the people of this nation, at home or abroad, as a day of thanksgiving and prayer for the nation and for the world, and that they gather in their several places of worship and devoutly give Him thanks for the property wherewith He has endowed us; for the wisdom and bounty of the Father of our country; for the valor, devotion and humanity of our armies and navies; and for all His beneficence to us as individuals and as a nation, and that they humbly pray for the continuance of His Divine favor, for concord and unity with other nations, for righteousness and peace in all our ways, and that they devoutly give Him thanks for the property wherewith He has endowed us; for the wisdom and bounty of the Father of our country; for the valor, devotion and humanity of our armies and navies; and for all His beneficence to us as individuals and as a nation, and that they humbly pray for the continuance of His Divine favor, for concord and unity with other nations, for righteousness and peace in all our ways, and that they devoutly give Him thanks for the property wherewith He has endowed us; 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